24th March 1955]

*Permission for processions and meetings in Malabar.*

* 1605 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Malappuram, Malabar, passed an order recently under the Indian Police Act of 1861 informing the public to the effect that they should have previous permission for taking out processions or holding meetings in places like Melmuri, Mottor, Pahamanallur, Vatakkamgara, Pookkottar, Manjeri, Poonamale, Malappuram, etc., and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The Kazi of Malappuram mosque had announced his intention to conduct a ' Nercha ' on the 12th and 13th of February 1955. According to the programme thirteen processions each consisting of a few thousands of Muslims were proposed to be taken out from various places near Malappuram and to converge at a small place near the mosque. Each procession had an order of precedence and the processionists were expected to adhere to that order. The authorities were of the opinion that the processions should be regulated in the interests of communal harmony. In the circumstances, the Assistant Superintendent of Police, Malappuram, promulgated with the concurrence of the Executive First-class Magistrate, Malappuram, an order under section 30 (2) of Police Act (Central Act V of 1861) directing that those who wanted to take out a procession or convene an assembly or meeting within the limits of the villages mentioned in the question, should take out a licence from the Assistant Superintendent of Police, after giving him 48 hours' notice."

*District Food Production Advisory Committees.*

* 1606 *Q.*—Sri M. DHARMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that District Food Production Advisory Committees have since been dissolved;

(*b*) if so, from what date; and

(*c*) whether any other committees have since been constituted in their place to consider the food problem?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, it is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the District Food Production Committees.

" (*b*) With effect from 5th September 1953.

" (*c*) Yes, the functions of the District Food Production Committee have been entrusted to the District Planning Boards and Project Advisory Committees."